



**Apprenticeship and Training**



**Support and Innovations**



**Animation and Territories**



**Animal and Organic Agriculture**

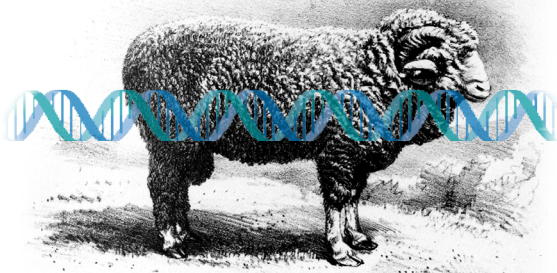


**Heritage and Environment**



**Organization and Institutional**





From 1783 to today.

#### **THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM AND THE RAMBOUILLET'S MERINO SHEEP**

In 1783, Louis XVI built an experimental farm to study animals and plants adaptation. The objective of improving the French animal breeds leads to the introduction of the Merino sheep in 1786. At the end of the 18th century, Napoleon Bonaparte, who was then 1st Consul, launched an operation of «merinization» of the French breeds. Merino ram breeders were sent from Rambouillet to be crossed with local breeds to improve the wool quality of the flocks. From 1851, the Merino herd found a new vocation, that of improving the fleeces of breeds in the emerging countries of the time, in Europe, but especially in the southern hemisphere. The reputation of the farm and its Merinos then spread to the five continents.

#### **THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING**

Within the same dynamic of research and transmission, the first shepherds' school opened its doors in 1794, thus inaugurating a long list of zootechnical training courses. The shepherds' school became the national school of sheep breeding in 1934. The first animal insemination experiments in France began in 1938 and the Zootechnical Teaching Center was born in 1955. The Bergerie nationale is also a pioneer in raising awareness of the concept of sustainable development and its inclusion in agricultural education programs since 1994.

#### **TESTING, ALWAYS**

The Merino breed, which has been managed in consanguinity since 1786, represents today a genetic capital of great scientific value. The method called Farm Sustainability Indicators (IDEA) was created in the 1990s at the Bergerie, and the fourth version is currently about to be launched. Grass management, eco-grazing, agroforestry, and beekeeping are also being experimented on and are gradually transforming the landscapes.



## The Bergerie nationale de Rambouillet: a place of mediation between the rural and the urban worlds

235 years after its creation, the Bergerie nationale remains a key place for people interested in agriculture and farming.

As a pioneer in agroecology, the Bergerie nationale is a place where urban and rural dwellers can exchange and share knowledge through its training and education activities for the general public. It is a place of agronomic reflection with as coherent system, that aims to train heterogeneous publics from different backgrounds on topics such as farming, biodiversity and food systems.

The Bergerie nationale experiments with new approaches to better deal with agricultural issues and techniques, particularly in the field of animal husbandry. It is experimenting with a new relationship with the environment that respects the entire production line, from agricultural production methods to the distribution of products to consumers, including product processing techniques. It is also looking for production methods respectful towards people, animals, soil and biodiversity.

On its farm, in its equestrian center and throughout the establishment, it uses production and maintenance techniques that respect its exceptional heritage: an architecture from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, a remarkable natural estate within a protected domain with a unique biodiversity, as well as the living patrimony represented by the Rambouillet Merino sheep, which has such a special history.

Today, it has the ambition to become a reference in the field of agroecology. It transmits its theoretical and practical experience to the different audiences it welcomes : professionals in agriculture and agricultural education, schoolchildren from kindergarten to higher education, and the public.

Among the top five tourist sites in Yvelines department, the Bergerie nationale raises awareness of the realities of agriculture and food consumption to more than 100,000 people each year.

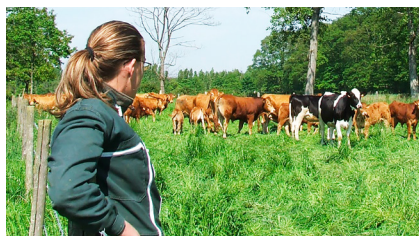
# An activity turned on **6 missions**

In the continuity of its historical missions of experimentation and training in the fields of agriculture and animal breeding, the Bergerie nationale, a national public establishment, is organized around six missions entrusted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty.



## Apprenticeship and training

The institution offers diploma courses of various professional levels, in the fields of agriculture and breeding, horse careers, insemination and animal health. It also offers qualifying training courses adapted to the career paths and individual projects of people in professional retraining or looking for a job. Every year, it also organizes about twenty training courses for teachers and trainers of the agricultural education system.



## Animation and territories

The educational farm and the equestrian center organize many events and welcome a large public to discover and learn about the various and real aspects of agricultural productions. Seminars and meetings are possible thanks to equipped rooms, accommodation and catering facilities.



## Heritage and environment

The architectural, natural and living heritage is preserved and promoted within the institution. The Bergerie nationale plans essential maintenance and renovation work and organizes events for the general public so as to promote the richness of the architectural patrimony.



## Support and innovations

The Bergerie nationale is an actor of the National Support System for Agricultural Education. It supports educational institutions and their farms in their technical and educational projects. It is also involved in projects with partners in the Ile-de-France region as well as with international partners (Erasmus+ for example).



## Animal and organic farming

260 hectares cultivated according to organic farming principles feed 60 dairy cows and over 300 ewes. Their products (milk, meat and wool) are traded in local circuits. The farm highlights agroecology thanks to the complementarity of crops and livestock, favouring the autonomy of the system and the respect of the environment.



## Organization and Institutional

The general services provide the necessary logistics to ensure the harmonious and efficient functioning of the other missions.



**236**  
years of conservation  
of the Merino breed of  
Rambouillet




**110**  
employees at the Bergerie  
nationale



**100,000**  
visitors in 2022



**93%**  
success rate  
in exams in 2021




**260**  
hectares  
in organic farming



**240**  
staff of the agricultural  
education trained in 2022



**8**  
millions in annual  
budget



**> 85**  
groups welcomed in 2022  
(seminars, meetings...)



**> 400**  
students



**3.2**  
million organic yogurts  
distributed each  
year in Île-de-France.



**22**  
international mobilities  
in 2022



**6,000m<sup>2</sup>**  
historical facades

